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The seven hundred and fourteenth meeting of the Club was held in the Senior Common Room, South Side, Imperial College, London, S.W.7 on Tuesday 19 September 1978, at 7. p.m.

Chairman: Dr. J. F. Monk: present 19 members and 7 guests.

Sir Hugh Elliott, BT., O.B.E. spoke on some problems of the heron family and illustrated his address with slides, both of photographs of heron species and of recent paintings of herons.

He pointed out that in the case of a surprisingly large proportion of these species, 18 out of a total of 61, there was little known and that no nests had been found of three—Fasciated Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma fasciatum*, Zigzag Heron *Zebrilus undulatus* and White-eared Night Heron *Gorsachius magnificus*. He gave information about these 18 species and explained reasons for them being still so substantially unknown. Among other problems, he discussed the very slow attainment of full adult plumage in South American tiger herons and canopy forming by the Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* for feeding.

Notes on the Rufous-capped Thornbill *Chalcostigma ruficeps*, a new hummingbird species for Colombia

by Karl-L. Schuchmann

Received 1 July 1978

During a field study of hummingbirds of the Cauca Valley and the western Andes near Cali, Colombia, 2 specimens of the Rufous-capped Thornbill *Chalcostigma ruficeps* were observed during March 1977 in the Paramo zone at Pan Azucar (elevation 3800 m). According to de Schauensee (1970) the northern geographic limit of this species does not extend beyond the Andes of southeastern Ecuador and the species is unrecorded in Colombia. At present, little information is available on hummingbirds restricted to the upper temperate zone, so that it is impossible to judge whether *C. ruficeps* is a migrant or a resident species in Colombia.

Both individuals, one of which was trapped (skin deposited in the Senckenberg Museum), collected nectar from blossoms of *Fuchsia canescens* (Oenantheraceae). Hovering for food was rarely seen; clutching the inflorescence was the most common feeding technique observed. Corolla slits pierced by Glossy Flower-piercers *Diglossa lafresnayii* were often used to reach nectar normally inaccessible in such types of flower.

With regard to the taxonomic status of *C. ruficeps* there is still much uncertainty. Peters (1945) included it in the genus *Metallura*, whereas Zimmer (1952) and de Schauensee (1970) placed it in the *Chalcostigma* group. According to my own rather fragmentary observations, the Rufous-capped Thornbill, with its butterfly-like flight and soft trilling song, is more like the Metaltails (*Metallura*) than the thornbills (*Chalcostigma*). Comparative observations were made in the field and laboratory on the Fire-throated

Metaltail *Metallura eupogon*, the Tyrian Metaltail *Metallura tyrianthina*, the Bronze-tailed Thornbill *Chalcostigma heteropogon* and the Rainbow-bearded Thornbill *Chalcostigma herrani* (Schuchmann pers. obs.).

References:
De Schauensee, R. M. 1970. *A Guide to the Birds of South America.* Livingston: Pennsylvania.
Peters, J. L. 1945. *Check-list of Birds of the World.* Vol. V. Harvard Univ. Press: Cambridge.
Zimmer, J. T. 1952. Studies of Peruvian birds: 62. *Amer. Mus. Novitates* 1595.

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Further notes on *Lophophorus sclateri*

by G. W. H. Davison

Received 9 June 1978

The eastern population of the pheasant *Lophophorus sclateri* has been described as a new subspecies (Davison 1974). Further examination of the small series of skins in the British Museum (Natural History) has shown more characters which appear to vary in an east–west fashion. The skins examined were from Pachakshiri, Lo La and Pome in southeast Tibet (5 males and 3 females) in the west of the species' range, from Yunnan and north Burma (5 males and 3 females) in the east, and 2 males from the intermediate locality of Mishmi Hills, Arunachal Pradesh.

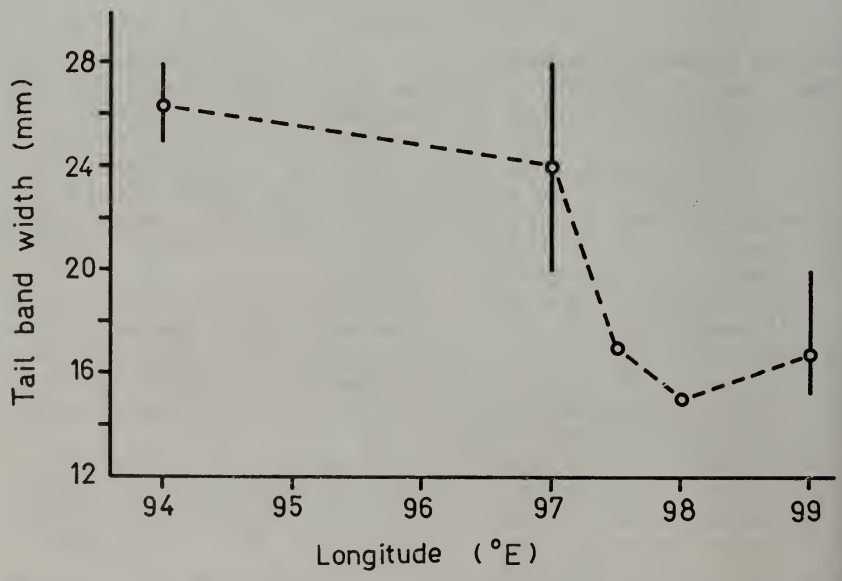

Fig. 1. Variation with longitude in the width of the terminal white tail band of male *Lophophorus sclateri*. The points show the mean tail band width, the vertical bars the range.